

the Federalist Society to advise Trump directly on Supreme Court nominations.

Now, there are unanswered questions about whether this was even legal, but the point was clear. Virtually all major Trump nominees would be scheme-chosen, donor-approved FedSoc members. And, indeed, 86 percent of Trump's Supreme Court and appellate court nominees were or are members.

Leo and the Federalist Society's control ran deep. In Leo, the donors controlled an agent to orchestrate every aspect of Supreme Court judicial battles, and they provisioned him with dark money beyond imagining, and with a devious structure of front groups to hide behind while effectuating their scheme.

We are still learning about the scope of Leo's covert funding and influence, but a 2019 Washington Post expose painted a remarkable picture: a vast network of Leo-affiliated front groups; shell entities with no employees and vague connections to Leo cutouts; shared post office boxes; common contractors and officers across nominally separate entities, even some sharing Presidents; dark money funders, anonymous advertising, and enormous pay packages for operatives.

It has the earmarks of a covert operation of the sort that is run by hostile countries in the intelligence arena. But this covert operation was run in America against America by Americans. By the Post's reckoning, \$250 million in dark money flowed through this apparatus. Testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee's Courts Subcommittee, which I chair, has since updated that number to \$400 million. Groups in this apparatus have gorged on dark money, their coffers swelling by orders of magnitude as Leo's influence grew.

For example, in 2002, DonorsTrust, the scheme's dark money ATM, had contributed \$5,000 to the Federalist Society. Scroll forward to the most recent year on record: It contributed \$7 million.

Before 2010, the Federalist Society received an occasional anonymous gift of \$1,000 or more, at most one per year. Over the last decade, it averaged more than a dozen each and every year. Donors were not kidding around, not with that kind of money—\$400 million. The scheme to capture the Court was deadly serious.

Eleven days after Donald Trump was sworn into office, he announced Neil Gorsuch—a name from the Federalist Society's infamous list—to fill Scalia's former seat. Then Brett Kavanaugh was hand-walked by Leonard Leo to the top of the list, after all his ardent auditioning from his court of appeals seat. And 7 days before Donald Trump lost the 2020 election, Amy Coney Barrett—a Federalist Society member and regular feature speaker at Federalist Society events—filled Ruth Bader Ginsburg's seat. The scheme's Federalist Society gatekeeper operation

had delivered to its big donors a complete overhaul of the Court in less than 4 years.

One man, his secretive array of front groups, and hundreds of millions of scheme donors' money, delivered a donor-approved six-Justice majority to the Court.

The Federalist Society was the turnstile that controlled the appointments, and dark money was the inducement that controlled the turnstile.

To be continued.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, as I give the closing remarks, I want to alert everyone listening that, at the conclusion of the closing, Senator INHOFE will hold the floor for his remarks, and his remarks will be regarding our common friend, Senator Enzi.

NOMINATION REFERRAL

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, let me first ask unanimous consent that the nomination of PN913, James D. Rodriguez, of Texas, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training, be jointly referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO ALBERT TREVINO

• Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate Albert Trevino on his retirement from the U.S. Border Patrol, after 26 years of faithful service to the American people.

Albert started his law enforcement career right out of college in 1987, with the police force in his hometown of Harlingen, TX. In Harlingen, he served as patrol officer for the police department for 5 years before being promoted to an instructor and background investigator.

In 1995, he joined the U.S. Border Patrol, ready to face greater challenges. He first served in El Paso, before securing a transfer back to Harlingen several years later to patrol and protect his hometown community.

During his career, Albert has had the opportunity to serve on the prosecutions detail working with the U.S. At-

torney's Office on prosecuting criminal aliens, has been a post academy instructor in both immigration law and Spanish for his fellow agents, and has assisted the inspector general's office on background investigations. In the course of his career, Albert has helped apprehend literally thousands of illegal border-crossers and dozens of narcotics smugglers.

Many of us in the Senate know Albert through his work as an elected official with the National Border Patrol Council. He was first elected to office in the Rio Grande Valley Sector Local in 1999 and then as a national vice president in 2011. As national vice president, he has chaired the legislative committee for 10 years, and for many of us here in Washington, Albert has been the face of our Nation's Border Patrol agents. He has represented them faithfully and, in doing so, has helped support the agents who keep Americans safe. It is no overstatement to say every Senate office engaged on border security issues over the last decade has likely worked with Albert on an issue. His efforts on Capitol Hill were instrumental in the passage of the Border Patrol Pay Reform Act in 2014, that gave Border Patrol agents a stable pay system for the first time in 40 years.

I have had the pleasure of working with Albert on legislation to give Border Patrol agents wage parity with other Federal law enforcement agencies by restoring Fair Labor Standards Act overtime. I had hoped we could pass this legislation before Albert retired, but will keep working to bring this to fruition.

I would also like to recognize Albert's incredible family who have supported him throughout his career. A successful career in law enforcement is a team effort that involves the entire family. Border Patrol agents work long hours under extremely harsh conditions. It is a 24/7 operation, and agents must work nights, weekends, and holidays. Family holidays and celebrations often get missed when you have to work; yet Albert's family has been unwavering in their support for him. I am grateful for the commitment shown by Albert's wife of 30 years, Edna, and their children Alisa and Danny.

In closing, I would like to thank Albert for his 26 years of Federal service to this country, to the people of the great State of Texas, and to his community of Harlingen. We wish you and your family well in your retirement, and we hope you see continued success in future endeavors.●

TRIBUTE TO NORMAN LEAR

• Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise to recognize the 99th birthday of Norman Lear, a man who came to Hollywood and entertained the Nation, then dedicated his life to bettering it as a champion for progressive values.

Born in 1922, Norman Lear served bravely in the Air Force during World